

But God Is The Strength Of My Heart (Psalm 72:1-3; 25-26)

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But God Is the Strength of My heart Ps 72:1-3, 25-26

Today I'd like to start a series of messages surrounding the theme "When God interrupts". In the text of scripture God often interrupts with the phrase "But God".

For example ¹like Eph 3:3-4, also in Acts 13:24-30 after it was stated that... And here in our text today the Psalmist said in vs 26... The other day we were watching the Olympic marathon runners. One particular runner was running in great pain but yet kept running. Being an athlete most of my younger days I have found it to be true that the heart is stronger than the flesh. The Football

player with a broken bone can continue to play. The soldier wounded in battle can still continue to hold off the enemy. But what happens when the heart and the flesh both faint? When the person has not the strength and will to go on. That is the predicament of the psalmist in vs 72. He is in this situation because of a perspective problem. He is faint of heart and faint of flesh because he has been looking at things in life from the wrong perspective. But

God can change ³our perspective. Every

I. A Worldly Wrong Perspective - vs 1-3 the psalmist said his fainting fit started first of all by looking at the wicked. If you really want to start sinking fast, then just take

your eyes off the Lord and set them on the world

A. The Forbearance of God indicates the Absence of God vs 4-6 - The psalmist said there is no pain or struggle in their death vs 5 there is no chastening in their life. Seemingly no punishment for sin. They walk around in arrogance + pride thinking they are getting away with wickedness. They are mistaken in their perspective. They mistake the forbearance of God for the

B. The Fortunes of Gam indicates the Absence of God vs 3, 7 This whole skewed perspective started when the psalmist started looking at the wealth of the wicked. Look at them they don't give a rip about God, and they are prospering. Richard Dawkins + Christopher Hitchens are making money hand over fist by selling books called "The God Delusion" and "God is

C. The Fortright Gloat indicates the Absence of God vs 8-9 - Listen to what they are saying. How wicked and vile yet no fire falls from the sky. The four winds of the earth do not converge upon their house and collapse it. They walk around w/o a care in the world. God seemingly does nothing about it.

II. A Personally Partial Perspective -

The psalmist has been looking at the world thru the eyes of the wicked. A skewed wrong perspective. Now he pulls away and looks

- 1) Ephesians 2:3-4 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past, in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,
- 2) Acts 13:29-30 ...they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre. But God raised him from the dead:
- 3) ...every child of God can have God interrupt their fainting fit by remembering the following three perspectives.
- 4) ...the world. From the world's perspective....
- 5) ...for the absence of God. Be assured that you will give an account before God of your sin. Sinner friend just because you have sinned and gotten away with it. God will judge the wicked. According to Romans 2:4 the forbearance of God is suppose to bring you to repentance not lift you up in pride.
- 6) ..."God is not Great." Nothing happens to them. Their not hurting for money. They are running all over the globe promoting books that blaspheme and wickedly bring a reproach to the name of God and yet nothing seemingly ever touches their fortunes.
- 7) Christopher Hitchens: God did not make man in his own image. Evidently it was the other way about, which is the painless explanation for the profusion of gods and religions, and the fratricide both between and among faiths, that we see all about us and that has so retarded the development of civilizations." Richard Dawkins: The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all of fiction. Jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic-cleanser; a misogynistic homophobic racist, infanticidal, and genocidal

1) ...but take into account that this is perspective as well as the previous perspective is not complete. It is partial.

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7) Christopher Hitchens: God did not make man in his own image. Evidently it was the other way about, which is the unhelpful explanation for the profusion of gods and religions, and the divide both between and among faiths, that we see all about us and that has so retarded the development of civilization." Richard Dawkins: The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all of fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal,

at his own life and compares the two. But take ①

A. Partial View of Prosperity vs 3, 12 - This whole psalm started with the psalmist erroneously looking at the prosperity of the wicked.

There is nothing like caution to give someone the wrong perspective. He is saying I love God I follow God I give to God. I deserve to be blessed, I deserve prosperity not them. I give of my time, my life, my talents and I struggle

B. Partial View of Purity vs 13 - The psalmist says that I have guarded and kept pure my whole being. I have cleansed my heart I stay right on the inside, I stay right on the outside; I cleanse my hands and yet the

thought enters, is all that for naught vain? The wicked don't give a rip about living right being right and yet they do better than I?

C. Partial View of Punishment vs 14 - Everyday I get punished. I can't get away with anything. The wicked are never chastized. They do ~~any~~ things and everything they want. But not me. I can't ever off course or disagree without God chastening me. I remember when I was a kid 7, 8, 9 yrs old, seemed like dad was on me all the time about something.

III. A Godly Grand Perspective ch 15
15-16 We realize the psalmist has been holding all this in he's not said anything to the people around him, it's been his trial his dilemma. But in vs 17

Things are about to change as he walks into sanct.

A. The Reality of Coming Punishment vs 17-19, 21

He said when I got down to the church house, I understood that the life that the wicked are living now is not the end of the story. The rest of the story is that the wicked will be brought to judgment. It's sad to say that in many churches you won't hear of the fate of the wicked. But this day he heard that despite their present life of pleasure and ease, God has placed them in slippery places where w/o a moment's notice they will be brought to judgment. Christopher Hitchens, Richard Dawkins, I hope they repent and believe but if not

B. The Remembrance of Comforting Presence vs 20-21, 28

In vs 20 the psalmist describes the intervention of God as an awakening from sleep. When God interrupted and illuminated his perspective he was ashamed, grieved even. vs 23, I have your presence with me. No matter the wealth of the world I have God holding my hand! He will lead me through this life. And one day I will enter glory! I'm going to heaven.

You are my gain. You are my portion and my strength. He was desiring the wealth of this world but now, I only want you.

IV Closing - vs 26 But God!

Can God interrupt your problems
Looking at this world.

1) ...This is where God butts in. This is where he interrupts the psalmist's thinking.

2) ...but if not they will incur the full measure of the wrath of God. Life is not without justice. Not only will they be brought to justice, every liar, thief, blasphemer, will meet the judgment of God. Also every person that has attempted to work their way into God's pleasure, every moral yet unrepentant person will will meet the same fate.